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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, showing what has been done under the provisions of the act of 3d March, 1847, entitled "an act authorizing the erection of certain light-houses, and for other purposes."*

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JANUARY 26, 1848.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, January 19, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for the information of the House of Representatives, a communication from S. Pleasonton, esq., Fifth Auditor, and Superintendent of the Light-house Establishment, dated 15th ultimo, showing what has been done under the provisions of the act of the 3d March last, entitled "an act authorizing the erection of certain light-houses, and for other purposes."

I have the honor to be, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,  
McCLINTOCK YOUNG,  
*Acting Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Fifth Auditor's Office, December 15, 1847.*

SIR: Immediately after the passage of the act of the 3d March last, entitled "an act authorizing the erection of certain light-houses, and for other purposes," I directed the several superintendents of lights, in whose districts new lights were to be erected, to proceed, with the aid of retired captains of ships and pilots, to select the most suitable sites, and where the site did not belong to the United States, to purchase, at a reasonable rate, a few acres of land at each place, for the accommodation of the establishment. This done, they were directed to apply to the proper State legislature for a cession of jurisdiction, in cases where the land was purchased of individuals, but they were advised that that measure was considered unnecessary where the land belonged to the United States; they having, on all occasions of admitting new States into the Union, inhibited such States from taxing the lands of the United States—the only object to be obtained in procuring a cession of jurisdiction; the States having uniformly retained a concurrent jurisdiction.

by advertisement, and the lowest offer accepted; no payment to be made until the work shall be satisfactorily done.

With these preliminary remarks, I have thought it would be acceptable to Congress to be informed of what has been done in relation to the several appropriations made by them, at their last session, for light-house purposes, adopting the order in which they are found in the act above referred to, viz:

IN MAINE.

1. *For building a light-house at Little river, in the town of Cutler, five thousand dollars.*

The site has been purchased, jurisdiction obtained, and the buildings erected and ready for a keeper, at an expense of four thousand seven hundred and forty dollars.

2. *For rebuilding the light-house at Mount Desert rock, fifteen thousand dollars.*

This light-house has been rebuilt in a substantial manner, of hewn stone, for thirteen thousand five hundred dollars.

3. *For building a light-house at Prospect harbor, in the town of Goldsborough, five thousand dollars.*

The erection of this building has been suspended, for the further action of Congress, in consequence of information received from the superintendent that it was unnecessary. A copy of his letter, marked A, is herewith transmitted.

4. *For spindles and buoys, amounting to two thousand three hundred dollars.*

The spindle and all the buoys, authorized by the act, have been procured for a sum within the appropriation.

#### IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

5. *For rebuilding the light-house on a rock called the Whale's Back, twenty-five thousand dollars.*

The erection of this light was assigned, by law, to the Topographical Bureau.

#### IN MASSACHUSETTS.

6. *For a beacon on a rock called the Londoner, near Thatcher's island, six thousand dollars.*

A substantial wrought iron beacon, thirty-five feet high, has been procured and placed on this rock, for three thousand six hundred and ninety dollars.

7. *For a light-house on Minot's rock, in Boston harbor, twenty thousand dollars.*

This work was also assigned to the Topographical Bureau.

8. *For a light-boat to be stationed near a reef of rocks at the entrance of Vineyard sound, called the "Sow and Pigs," ten thousand dollars; or for a permanent light-house on said reef, as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem best.*

On inquiry, it was found that a light-house here, to be permanent, would cost a very large sum—much beyond the appropriation. A light-boat, therefore, of one hundred and forty-five tons, has been built for nine thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, and is now at the station.

9. *For buoys in and near the harbor of Edgartown, and also in the harbor of Gloucester, two thousand dollars; for a buoy on Ben's shoal, eighty dollars; for a buoy-boat on the east end of Tucker-nuck shoal, and one on the end of Great or Sandy Point rip, eight hundred dollars.*

The buoys for, and in the neighborhood of, Edgartown, and in Gloucester harbor, have been procured at an expense of six hundred and sixty-four dollars only. The one for Ben's shoal was procured and placed for eighty dollars. The two buoy-boats were procured and moored at an expense of seven hundred and ninety-three dollars.

10. *For repairs to the causeway between the light-house and shore at Edgartown, five thousand dollars.*

Proposals were invited for this work, and the contract given to the lowest bidder, being four thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars, and the work is reported to be well done.

#### IN CONNECTICUT.

11. *For a light-house on the North Dumplin, in Fisher's Island sound, five thousand dollars.*

After much negotiation and delay, a title has been obtained of this rock, and jurisdiction over it ceded by the State of New York. The buildings will be erected in the ensuing spring.

12. *For a beacon on the southwest ledge, in New Haven harbor, one thousand dollars.*

It was found that this sum would not build a beacon of any kind which would be of the least service, or endure any time, on a place so much exposed. I had recommended, and which I now respectfully repeat, an appropriation of six thousand dollars to enable me to blow the rock up, and make a passage for vessels where it now stands.

13. *For rebuilding the light-house at the entrance of New Haven harbor, ten thousand dollars.*

This light-house has been rebuilt in the most substantial manner, of the largest class, and of hewn stone, and fitted up with the improved lamps and reflectors, 21-inch diameter, for nine thousand two hundred and eighty dollars.

14. *For buoys at the following places, viz: one on Moulton's ledge, in New London harbor; one on the outward end of the northeast bar of Two Tree island; one on the north end of Bartlett's reef; one on the south end of the Great Goshen reef; one on White Rock reef, in Black Point bay, and one at the Housatonic river, seven hundred and twenty dollars.*

[Remarks to await an answer from Mr. Mussey.]

15. *For completing the sea-wall for the protection of the light-house at Fairweather island, near Black rock, ten thousand dollars.*

This work was placed by law under the Topographical Bureau.



## IN RHODE ISLAND.

16. *For a buoy on Brinton's reef, near the entrance of the harbor of Newport, and for placing buoys on Buckley rock, Race rock, and on the east end of Watch Hill reef, four hundred dollars.*

The four buoys here named were procured and placed for the sum of four hundred dollars.

## IN NEW YORK.

17. *For a light-house at the entrance of Cattaraugus creek, four thousand dollars.*

The pier not being completed at this place, it was not considered advisable to put an expensive building on it. A movable beacon, therefore, was erected and placed on the pier, at an expense of six hundred dollars, to be kept and attended to by a person at fifteen dollars per month.

18. *For a red light on Governor's island, one hundred and fifty dollars.*

Concerning this light I have received no information from the superintendent.

19. *For a light-house on Execution rocks, in Long Island sound, twenty-five thousand dollars.*

So soon as these rocks could be examined, and a plan of a suitable light-house prepared, proposals were invited by advertisement, and the lowest bid accepted, being twenty-two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars. To this is to be added the cost of fitting it up with the improved lamps, 21-inch reflectors, &c., being one thousand six hundred dollars, making altogether twenty-three thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars when completed. It is to be finished by the 1st August, 1848.

20. *For a beacon on Sandy hook, three hundred dollars.*—21. *For a beacon on the south side of Staten island, three hundred dollars.*

These two dumb beacons have been erected for the sum of six hundred dollars, being three hundred dollars for each.

22. *For three beacon lights on the river St. Lawrence, at the passage of the "Thousand isles," one at the head of the narrows, one at Low Rock islet, below Alexandria, and one at the shoal called Crossover island, six thousand dollars.*

These beacons have all been built, and ready for keepers, at a cost of six thousand dollars, the sum appropriated.

23. *For a light-house on Teller's point, on the Hudson river, four thousand dollars.*

Mr. J. T. Underhill, to whom the land belonged at Teller's point, objected strongly to a light-house being placed there, alleging that his own dwelling was near the point, and all the land was cultivated as a vineyard and highly improved. He stated that he would not take ten thousand dollars for a site, and begged that all proceedings on the subject, on our part, should be postponed to give him an opportunity to obtain a repeal of the law. Proceedings were consequently postponed.

24. *For furnishing the light-houses on the Atlantic coast with means of rendering assistance to shipwrecked mariners; the same to be under the control and direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, five thousand dollars.*

This appropriation has not been used, it being unnecessary. The keepers of light-houses, on all islands and exposed places, have boats furnished them for their own use, and for assisting mariners in distress.

#### IN PENNSYLVANIA.

25. *To continue the construction of the light-house on the Brandywine shoals, in the Delaware river, thirty thousand dollars.*

This light-house was placed by law under the Topographical Bureau.

#### IN NEW JERSEY.

26. *For a beacon light at the "Cornerstake," so called, between Elizabethtown point and Shorter's island, and, also, for a small light or lantern on Shorter's island, five thousand dollars.*

Shorter's island, it appears by a letter from the superintendent of 10th May last, is owned by a Mr. Decker, who is unwilling to sell any portion of it, or even to allow a light to be erected there. The superintendent has, consequently, been directed to apply to the legislature of New Jersey, when in session, for an act to condemn and set off a site to the United States at a fair valuation, and, also, for a cession of jurisdiction. The legislature has not since been in session. The appropriation, however, is too small to effect both objects.

27. *For a light-house on the south end of Tucker's beach, six thousand dollars.*

A site has been fixed on and purchased for this light, but the legislature not having been in session since, from whom jurisdiction could

be obtained, nothing more has been done. The superintendent has been instructed to make application to the legislature for a cession of jurisdiction when they meet in the ensuing winter.

28. *For a buoy in the south channel of New inlet, eighty dollars; for placing buoys in Little Egg harbor, four hundred dollars.*

All these buoys have been procured and placed for the respective appropriations.

#### IN DELAWARE.

29. *For buoys to mark the channels discovered by the coast surveyors, in the Delaware bay, three thousand three hundred dollars.*

This appropriation was turned over to A. Dallas Bache, esq., superintendent of the coast survey, who has politely caused the buoys to be moored by the hydrographical part of his force.

#### IN MARYLAND.

30. *For a beacon light at Greenbury's point, at the harbor of Annapolis, three thousand five hundred dollars.*

The person owning the proper site asks one thousand five hundred dollars for four acres, but would prefer that the light should not be built there. As this is an unreasonable price, and if given would leave too small a sum with which to erect the buildings, the superintendent at Baltimore has been directed to apply to the legislature of Maryland, when in session, for an act to condemn and set off the site at a fair valuation, and to cede jurisdiction over it.

#### IN VIRGINIA.

31. *For a buoy on Sand Shoal inlet, in Accomac, one hundred dollars.*

This buoy has been procured and placed.

#### IN NORTH CAROLINA.

32. *For a light-house on Boddy's island, (a former appropriation of five thousand dollars having been carried to the surplus fund,) twelve thousand dollars.*

The site of this light-house was purchased, and jurisdiction obtained, some years ago, and, consequently, no delay was necessary in erecting the buildings. Proposals were, therefore, invited soon after the passage of the act, and a contract entered into with the lowest bidder, for erecting the buildings, for the sum of eight thou-

sand seven hundred and fifty dollars. A further sum of two thousand three hundred and fifty dollars was paid for fitting it up as a revolving light with 21-inch reflectors. The buildings were completed and fitted up on the 16th of October last, but as the superintendent was obliged to send to Boston for tube glasses, wicks, &c., it is not known whether it has been put into operation yet. He has been directed to give public notice when it will be lighted up.

33. *For a floating light to take the place of one now off Brandt island, which is too much decayed for repair, fifteen thousand dollars.*

A new and substantial floating light has been built for this station, of 145 tons, for the sum of eight thousand nine hundred and forty-seven dollars, and is now moored at her station.

#### IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

34. *For a light-house on South island, on the south edge of Winneyah entrance, five thousand dollars.*

This light-house was considered by the superintendent, pilots, and traders, in and out of Georgetown, as unnecessary; and, therefore, nothing has been done in regard to it, the light on North island, directly opposite, being considered sufficient.

35. *For a light-house at the entrance of Santee river, five thousand dollars.*

All action was suspended in this case, in consequence of a letter received from the honorable Isaac E. Holmes, stating that the light was intended for Bull's bay, and not for the entrance of Santee river, as was by mistake inserted in the law.

36. *For buoys in Bull's bay and Santee river, one thousand dollars.*

The buoys for these places have been provided and moored for the sum appropriated.

37. *For beacons to guide vessels over Charleston bar, three thousand dollars.*

The superintendent has had two beacons erected on Sullivan's island, near Fort Moultrie, to range with the main ship channel, as recommended by the pilots, for the sum of twelve hundred dollars, being one thousand eight hundred dollars less than the appropriation.

## IN GEORGIA.

38. *For placing a lantern, lamp, and reflectors, upon the beacon already erected upon the "oyster beds" in Savannah river, and for a small house for the keeper, two thousand dollars.*

This beacon, as stated by fourteen pilots, whose opinions have been sent to me by the superintendent, would be of no use. For this reason, and because it is partly under water, and could not be converted into a light without great expense, no action has been taken upon it.

39. *For erecting a small tower and a keeper's house upon the east end of Long island, in said river; also, for a similar tower and house on the east end of Fig island, in said river, six thousand dollars.*

The pilots before referred to, state that a beacon light on the eastern end of Long island would be of no use to the navigation, but were of opinion that Fig island was an excellent location for a beacon. In pursuance of these opinions, it has been considered proper to suspend all action in regard to the proposed beacon on Long island, and to direct the superintendent at Savannah, as has been done, to select and purchase the most suitable site at Fig island. He has accordingly done so, and has been further instructed to apply to the legislature, now believed to be in session, for a cession of jurisdiction over the site. In anticipation of the cession of jurisdiction, the superintendent has been furnished with a suitable plan of a building; for the erection of which he is directed to advertise for proposals so soon as the act of cession is obtained.

40. *For a buoy at Sapelo inlet, one hundred dollars.*

The appropriation was found to be insufficient, and no buoy has been procured. It will require two hundred dollars for an iron buoy, such as we use in those waters.

## IN FLORIDA.

41. *For a light-house at Carry's fort reef, the sum of thirty thousand dollars heretofore appropriated and carried to the surplus fund, is hereby reappropriated.*

This work was placed by law under the direction of the Topographical Bureau.

42. *For a light-house on Egmont Key, at the entrance of Tampa bay, ten thousand dollars.*

The proper site on this island belonged to the United States, and has been reserved from sale; and as the cession of jurisdiction was



not necessary—the State of Florida being prohibited from taxing the land—the only object to be obtained by a cession of jurisdiction, I caused proposals to be invited by advertisement, for erecting the buildings; and a contract has been entered into with the lowest bidder, and the work is to be completed by the 1st January next, for the sum of six thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, and one thousand three hundred and thirty dollars for fitting it up with lamps, reflectors, &c., making a total cost of seven thousand five hundred and eighty dollars.

*43. For a light-house at Cape Canavarel, twelve thousand dollars.*

The site at this place also belonged to the United States, over which jurisdiction from the State was not required. Proposals were, therefore, invited by advertisement, without delay, for erecting the building, and a contract entered into with the lowest bidder, who is to complete the work by the 1st January next. He is to receive for it, when satisfactorily done, the sum of eight thousand four hundred and ninety-five dollars. It is to be fitted up as a revolving light, for two thousand eight hundred and seventy-four dollars, and will be a light of the first class.

*44. For a light-house at Cape St. George, eight thousand dollars.—*

*45. For a light-house at Cape St. Blas, eight thousand dollars.*

The land here has been purchased, and the jurisdiction obtained from the Governor of Florida, under a law vesting him with authority for the purpose.

At St. Blas, the site belonged to the United States, and the superintendent at Apalachicola, in whose district they both are, was directed to advertise for proposals to erect both buildings of the largest class, giving the lowest bidder and contractor the right to use the materials of the old houses at the west end of St. George's island, and the entrance of St. Joseph's bay, as far as they could be properly used, these houses having been discontinued by law. The contract for both was taken by one person for the sum of thirteen thousand four hundred dollars, and the buildings are to be completed by the 1st March, 1848. The apparatus in the present light-houses are to be fitted up in the new houses.

*46. For a light-house at Key West, the old one having been destroyed by a tornado, twelve thousand dollars.*

A new site has been purchased here, and jurisdiction obtained; a contract been entered into with the lowest bidder, and the work is to be completed by the 1st January, 1848. The price to be given is six thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars, with two thousand and fifty dollars for fitting up. This will also be a light of the first class.

47. *For a buoy on Rebecca shoal, twenty miles east of the Tortugas light, three hundred dollars.*

A wrought-iron buoy was sent to the superintendent at Key West, from this city, with directions to cause it to be moored on this shoal, which he has since reported to have been done.

48. *For a screw pile light-house on or near Sand Key, the light-house at that place having been destroyed by a tornado, twenty thousand dollars.*

This light-house, at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, was to be erected by the War Department, and consequently I know not the state of it.

#### IN MISSISSIPPI.

49. *For a light-house on Merrill's shell bank, twelve thousand dollars, and the appropriation of a like sum for a light on St. Joseph's island, on the 3d March, 1837, is hereby repealed.*

Mr. G. B. Bowditch, an intelligent man, who was sent by the collector at New Orleans to examine this site, reported that the place was unsuitable for a light-house, it being a narrow strip of shell bank, frequently overflowed by the sea, and that, if one could be built to stand, it would cost a sum much beyond the appropriation. He therefore recommended the substitution of a floating light. It was concluded, therefore, by the Secretary of the Treasury and myself, to fit up, as a floating light, an iron vessel now at New Orleans, which was built for a steam cutter, but would not answer, and place her there. The collector at New Orleans has been directed accordingly to fit this vessel up, and cause her to be moored at a suitable place near this shell bank.

50. *For a light-house at Biloxi, twelve thousand dollars.*

The collector at Mobile, charged with the superintendence of this light, having purchased a suitable site, he was directed to inquire for what sum a cast iron light could be made and put up there, according to a plan, forty-five feet high, with which I furnished him. Inquiry was also made by me of several iron founders in the middle States, and, finding the offer of Messrs. Murray & Hazlehurst, of Baltimore, the lowest for casting, conveying to, and putting up the tower at Biloxi, being six thousand three hundred and forty-seven dollars and fifty cents for the whole work, I contracted with them accordingly. The work to be completed by the 1st April next.

The superintendent states that he can get a keeper's house built of wood, which suits that climate best, for one thousand dollars. He has been directed to do so, and to have it finished by the time the tower is to be put up. The lighting apparatus is not yet con-

tracted for, as I have not yet ascertained whether it ought to be a revolving light to distinguish it from others, or a stationary light.

#### IN LOUISIANA.

51. *For a light-house on the Bon Fouca, three thousand dollars.*

The site, in this case, belonged to the United States, and the collector was directed to advertise for proposals to erect the buildings. He did so, and received one proposal only for three thousand dollars, which he was directed to accept, and have the work properly executed. To be finished on the 1st February, agreeably to contract.

52. *For a light-house on South Chandeleur island, twelve thousand dollars.*

The site here belongs to the United States, and the collector at New Orleans was directed to advertise for proposals to erect the buildings. He accordingly advertised, and the lowest offer was seven thousand nine hundred dollars, which he was directed to accept. He has recently stated that this bidder had not executed the contract, and he was apprehensive that he would not. In this event, the collector was told to advertise again in New Orleans and other papers in Mississippi, and, if no satisfactory bid was received, to inform me, and I would advertise in the Boston papers, where I have always found competent bidders ready to proceed to any part of the coast, with men and materials, and execute any work assigned them at short notice.

#### IN TEXAS.

53. *For the erection of a light-house on Galveston island, fifteen thousand dollars.*

Soon after the passage of the law, the collector at Galveston was directed, with the aid of pilots, to select the most suitable site, and purchase a few acres of land, if they could be had at a reasonable rate. In reply, he informed me that Galveston island was not a suitable place, but that Bolivar point was recommended by most of the nautical men of Galveston for the light-house. The Secretary of the Treasury and myself, therefore, considered it proper to take no further step in relation to Galveston island, but to submit the case to the further consideration and action of Congress. The owner of the land, however, at Bolivar point asks from three to nine thousand dollars for a site, on the plea that it is worth the money as town lots. In changing the site, therefore, it will be necessary to enlarge the appropriation from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars.

54. *For a light-house on Matagorda island, fifteen thousand dollars.*

The collector was directed to select and purchase the best site at this place also. The site appears to be in dispute, and he has been instructed to employ the district attorney to examine and report upon it.

55. *For twenty wrought iron buoys, to be placed in the waters of Texas, five thousand dollars.*

These buoys have been made at this place, and sent to the collector at Galveston, who has received them, at a cost of two hundred and ten dollars each. He has had eight of them moored, at an expense of three hundred dollars, and is asked fifty dollars a piece for mooring the rest, whilst, on our eastern coast, they would not cost more than fifteen dollars each. As the coast survey has a vessel in these waters, it is expected the collector will prevail upon the commander to moor these buoys at a reasonable expense.

#### IN OHIO.

56. *For a beacon light, and preparing the head of the pier for the same, at Vermillion river, three thousand dollars.*

As the pier was not sufficiently finished to receive a permanent light, a temporary one was erected, on a plan suggested by this office, which, as stated by the agent there, "answers every purpose it was intended." The cost of it was but one hundred and eighty-three dollars and thirty-seven cents.

57. *For a light-house on the Western Sister island, in Lake Erie, four thousand dollars.*

This island belongs to the United States, and was reserved from sale for public purposes. No delay, therefore, was necessary in erecting the buildings. The collector at Sandusky was accordingly directed at an early period to advertise for proposals and accept the lowest offer, provided it was within the appropriation, and send me a list of all the bids, as well as copies of his advertisement. This was done, and a contract entered into with the lowest bidder for erecting a tower forty feet high, fitting it up, and building a keeper's house, for three thousand six hundred dollars. All the work has been satisfactorily done, and the light in operation for several months past.

## IN ILLINOIS.

58. *For a light-house at Chicago, three thousand five hundred dollars.*

The pier not being finished at this place, a temporary light has been established like that at Vermillion river, at an expense of one hundred and ninety-nine dollars and sixty-nine cents.

59. *For a light-house at Littleport, four thousand dollars.*

The proper site has been selected and purchased, but the Legislature of Illinois not having been in session since the passage of the act of Congress, nothing further has been done. The superintendent will apply for an act ceding jurisdiction, when the Legislature shall meet.

## IN MICHIGAN.

60. *For a light-house at Monroe, three thousand dollars.*

This work was transferred to the Topographical Bureau.

61. *For a light-house at Clinton river, three thousand dollars.*

The site was purchased, jurisdiction ceded, and the light-house built and in operation some time ago, for the sum of two thousand six hundred and forty-three dollars.

62. *For a light-house near Wangoshance, the sum appropriated by the act of 7th July, 1838, is hereby appropriated, twenty-five thousand dollars.*

This work was placed by law under the Topographical Bureau.

63. *For a light-house at Point au Barques, on the westerly shore of Lake Huron; and at the mouth of Saginaw bay, five thousand dollars.*

The land at this place belongs to the United States, and is reserved from sale. The collector at Detroit was directed to advertise for proposals, early in May; did advertise and enter into a contract with the lowest bidder. The buildings have been finished, and in operation for some time past, at a cost of four thousand one hundred and forty-six dollars. It is a tower of the first class, being sixty-five feet high to the lantern.

64. *For a light-house at Detour, where the river Sault Ste. Marie empties into Lake Huron, five thousand dollars.*

The site at this place also belongs to the United States, and has been reserved for sale for the use of the light. The collector at Mackinac, under instructions from this office, advertised in July



last for proposals to erect the buildings, according to plans sent him, and entered into a contract with the lowest bidder, for completing the buildings by the 1st December instant. The whole cost for a tower sixty-five feet high, with a keeper's house, will be the moderate sum of four thousand one hundred and fifty-nine dollars. It is believed the buildings are finished; though I have no certain information on the subject. It is too late, however, to light it up this season.

65. *For a light-house at White Fish point, Lake Superior, five thousand dollars.*

The site here belonging to the United States, and reserved from sale, the collector at Mackinac was instructed in like manner to advertise for proposals, and enter into a contract with the lowest bidder; which was done. The buildings, however, could not be completed until the month of May next. The contract price for finishing them is four thousand nine hundred dollars.

66. *For a light-house at Copper harbor, Lake Superior, five thousand dollars.*

The site here also belonged to the United States, and was reserved from sale. The collector at Mackinac, in like manner and under like instructions, advertised for proposals for building this light and keeper's house, and accepted the lowest offer; which was four thousand eight hundred dollars. The buildings will be completed, it is expected, some time in May next. It is proper to state that the sites of the several light-houses at Detour, White Fish point, and Copper harbor, were, at my request, though out of his district, selected and surveyed by Charles G. Hammond, esq., the collector at Detroit, at a season of the year which rendered that duty both painful and dangerous, and which, in fact, resulted in a serious illness to him.

67. *For a light-house at St. Josephs, three thousand five hundred dollars.*

A light-house being already established here, it was presumed that the appropriation was intended to erect a beacon on the pier, in aid of the light-house. As the pier was in an unfinished state, a temporary beacon only, at a small cost, was erected on the pier, and this appears to give a satisfactory light.

#### IN WISCONSIN.

68. *For a light-house at Southport, five thousand dollars.*

The site was selected and purchased by John McReynolds, esq., general superintendent of lights on the upper lakes, and special superintendent of those on Lake Michigan, for the sum of seventy-five dollars; and, as Wisconsin had not been admitted into the Union,

jurisdiction was still in the United States. He was directed to advertise for proposals, and accept the lowest bid; which was three thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, for erecting the buildings; and these were to be of the first class. The buildings are to be completed on or before the 1st June next.

69. *For a light-house at Tail point, at the mouth of Fox river, four thousand dollars.*

Mr. McReynolds also advertised for erecting these buildings, the site belonging to the United States, and accepted the lowest bid, which was three thousand seven hundred and forty dollars, for a light of the first class. The buildings are to be completed by the 1st June, 1848.

I have now gone through, in detail, the numerous appropriations made, on the 3d of March last, for light-house purposes, and the action which has been had upon them, so far as they have come under my supervision. It is proper to observe, however, that of the light-houses directed by that law to be discontinued, in certain contingencies, the two at the west end of St. George's island and the entrance of St. Joseph's bay, in Florida, are to be merged in new buildings at Cape St. George and Cape St. Blas; and the one at Cunningham creek, in Ohio, has been discontinued, the materials ordered to be sold and removed. The superintendent was directed, in relation to this last, to have the lamps, reflectors, &c., conveyed to Cleveland, and there to be taken care of. Those at Otter creek and Sandy point will be discontinued agreeably to the terms of the law, when the one at Monroe and that at Execution rocks shall be completed.

It may be satisfactory to present in one view the sums appropriated for building light-houses, the cost of building, and the sums remaining to be carried to the surplus fund, viz :

Where located.	Sums ap- propriated.	Cost of building.	To be car- ried to the surplus fund.	Remarks.
<i>In Maine.</i>				
Little river, Cutler.....	\$5,000	\$4,740	\$260	Suspended for the further ac- tion of Congress.
Mount Desert rock.....	15,000	13,500	1,500	
Prospect harbor, Golds- boro.	5,000	.....	.....	
<i>In New Hampshire.</i>				
Whale's Back.....	25,000	.....	.....	Assigned to the topographi- cal bureau.
<i>In Massachusetts.</i>				
"Londoner" rock beacon..	6,000	3,690	2,310	Assigned to the topographi- cal bureau.
Minot's rock, Boston har- bor.	20,000	.....	.....	
Vineyard sound light-boat.	10,000	9,950	50	
Edgartown causeway, re- paired.	5,000	5,000		

## LIGHT-HOUSES, &amp;c.—Continued.

Where located.	Sums appropriated.	Cost of building.	To be carried to the surplus fund.	Remarks.
<i>In Connecticut.</i>				
North Dumplin, Fisher's island sound.	\$5,000	.....	.....	To be erected next spring.
SW. ledge, New Haven harbor beacon.	1,000	.....	.....	Appropriation too small—nothing done.
New Haven harbor, rebuilding.	10,000	\$9,280	\$720	
Fairweather island, sea wall.	10,000	.....	.....	Assigned by law to the topographical bureau.
<i>In New York.</i>				
Cattaraugus creek.....	4,000	600	3,400	Pier not completed—temporary beacon erected—\$600.
Governor's island (red light.)	150	.....	.....	No information yet received from superintendent.
Execution rocks.....	25,000	23,850	1,150	
Sandy Hook (dumb beacon)	300	300		
Staten island do.....	300	500		
"Thousand isles" (3 beacons.)	6,000	6,000		
Teller's point, Hudson river.	4,000	.....	.....	Objected to, and action postponed.
<i>In Pennsylvania.</i>				
Brandywine shoal.....	30,000	.....	.....	Assigned by law to the topographical bureau.
<i>In New Jersey.</i>				
Beacons at "Corner stake" and Shorter's island.	5,000	.....	.....	Superintendent directed to obtain an act of condemnation as to Shorter's island—appropriation too small for both.
Tucker's Beach.....	6,000	.....	.....	The site purchased, but no jurisdiction can yet be obtained.
<i>In Maryland.</i>				
Greenbury point (beacon).	3,500	.....	.....	Superintendent directed to obtain an act of condemnation.
<i>In North Carolina.</i>				
Boddy's island.....	12,000	11,000	1,000	
Brandt island (floating light.)	15,000	8,947	6,053	
<i>In South Carolina.</i>				
South island.....	5,000	.....	.....	Represented as unnecessary.
Santee river.....	5,000	.....	.....	This site inserted in the law by mistake for Bull's bay.
Charleston bar beacon....	3,000	1,200	1,800	Two beacons erected on Sullivan's island.
<i>In Georgia.</i>				
Oyster beds (lantern, &c.)	2,000	.....	.....	Represented as useless, and partly under water—no action.

## LIGHT-HOUSES, &amp;c.—Continued.

Where located.	Sums appropriated.	Cost of building.	To be carried to the surplus fund.	Remarks.
<i>In Georgia—Continued.</i>				
Long island, east end, (tower and house).....	\$6,000	.....	.....	} Beacon on Long island, represented as unnecessary—no action. } Beacon on Fig island—site purchased, and jurisdiction to be obtained.
Fig island, east end, (tower.).....				
<i>In Florida.</i>				
Carysfort reef.....	30,000	.....	.....	Assigned by law to the topographical bureau.
Egmont Key.....	10,000	\$7,580	\$2,420	} Contract made to erect both these for \$13,400.
Cape Carnaveral.....	12,000	11,369	631	
Cape St. George.....	8,000	} 13,400	2,600	
Cape St. Blas.....	8,000			
Key West.....	12,000	9,025	2,975	Assigned by Secretary Treasury to the War Department.
Sand Key (screw pile light)	20,000	.....	.....	
<i>In Mississippi.</i>				
Merrill's shell bank.....	12,000	.....	.....	An iron light-boat substituted.
Biloxi.....	12,000	.....	.....	An iron light-house contracted for \$6,347 50; dwelling, say \$1,000; fitting up not yet contracted for.
<i>In Louisiana.</i>				
Bon Fouca.....	3,000	3,000	.....	Contract for buildings directed at \$7,900, but not yet entered into.
Chandeleur island.....	12,000	.....	.....	
<i>In Texas.</i>				
Galveston island.....	15,000	.....	.....	Site represented as unsuitable, and Bolivar point recommended—no action.
Matagorda island.....	15,000	.....	.....	Site in dispute—superintendent directed to examine and report
Wrought iron buoys (20)...	5,000	.....	.....	All delivered at Galveston—cost of placing them not yet ascertained.
<i>In Ohio.</i>				
Vermillion bay (beacon)...	3,000	183 37	2,816 63	Pier unfinished, and a temporary beacon placed here.
Western Sister island.....	4,000	3,600 00	400 00	
<i>In Illinois.</i>				
Chicago.....	3,500	199 69	3,300 31	Pier unfinished—temporary beacon placed here.
Little Fort.....	4,000	.....	.....	Awaits cession of jurisdiction.
<i>In Michigan.</i>				
Monroe.....	3,000	.....	.....	Transferred to topographical bureau.
Clinton river.....	3,000	2,643 00	357 00	Assigned by law to the topographical bureau.
Wagooshance.....	25,000	.....	.....	

## LIGHT-HOUSES, &amp;c.—Continued.

Where located.	Sums appropriated.	Cost of building.	To be carried to the surplus fund.	Remarks.
<i>In Michigan—Continued.</i>				
Point Aux Barques.....	\$5,000	\$4,146 00	\$354 00	Superintendent advises, November 27, that this work is suspended from foul weather, after the tower had been carried up to 22 feet in height.
De Tour.....	5,000	4,159 00	841 00	
White Fish point.....	5,000	4,900 00	100 00	A temporary beacon directed here as at Chicago.
St Joseph's.....	3,500	.....	3,500 00	
Copper harbor.....	5,000	4,800 00	200 00	
<i>In Wisconsin.</i>				
Southport.....	5,000	3,480 00	520 00	
Tail point.....	4,000	3,740 00	260 00	

I have the honor to be, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. PLEASANTON.

HON. ROBERT J. WALKER,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*



